CALPEEK

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WILSON vs. GOP HARDLINERS: SO WHAT'S NEW??
Editor's note: The hardliner conservative volunteer group, the CA Republican Assembly (CRA), just completed its quarterly Board of Directors meeting in L.A., where, as expeced, moderate GOP Gov. Pete Wilson was again raked over the coals. Here is CALPEEK's analysis & commentary on this ongoing battle...

...Resolution 193.3 - PARTY UNITY: "Whereas Gov. Pete Wilson has vacillated on issues ranging from taxes, gay rights, gun control, cooperated with Willie Brown and the Democrat Legislature, etc., etc...Resolved that Gov. Pete Wilson put the interests of the Republican Party first and announce that he will NOT be running for reelection."...

...This resolution, more than anything else, tells insiders all they need to know about how hardliners feel about Wilson: they HATE him - they always have, they always will, and they will sit on their hands in 1994 and NOT vote for him. PERIOD...

...The problem is that Gov. Wilson just doesn't get it. For whatever reason, Wilson thinks he can persuade hardliners that they should stand by him in 1994. To show them he's not looking for war, he has even refused to get involved in backing a moderate GOP candidate in the 32nd S.D. special election --- thus allowing hardline conservative businessman Rob Hurtt a free ride, much to the displeasure of some moderate GOPers in Orange Co...

...But the biggest setback for Wilson will come next month at the CA Republican Party convention, where the Conservative Coordinating Council has put together a slate of CRP officers that WILL drive Wilsonites up the wall. Yes, Tirso Del Junco is on the slate as chair, but John McGraw will be carrying the hardline banner for vice chair against John Herrington, who is perceived to be a Wilson ally because he's a BIG TENT advocate and Wilson backers are pushing his candidacy. Others on the conservative ticket include CRA chairman Michael Schroeder for treasurer and Dave Titus (currently chairman of the county chairmen's association) for secretary. Will the hardliners win? CALPEEK's best guess at this time is YES...

...FYI: at the CRP's Feb. 26-28 convention in Sacramento, hardliners plan to present a UNITY PLEDGE. It says no sitting constitutional officers can get involved in primaries, other than their own. This unity pledge is aimed at keeping Gov. Pete out of legislative primary battles in 1994. Will he sign such a pledge?? Stay tuned...

L.A. MAYOR'S RACE: BIG FIELD ALMOST SET.
Editor's note: Jan. 25 was the last day to file declarations of intent to run for mayor. As of CALPEEK's deadline, there were more than two dozen candidates in this field. But only 11 are considered SERIOUS contenders by CALPEEK sources. Here's our update on this primary, where for the first time since 1929, there is no incumbent...

...The latest entry into the race is retiring Councilman Ernani Bernardi, the original "Dr. NO." The 81-year-old councilman, who has had very serious health problems, says he will run a low budget campaign without a paid consultant. Few insiders give Bernardi much of a shot, but he could be a factor - especially in the S.F. Valley. Every vote he gets is one less for someone else...

...And Bernandi is right about one other thing: the 1993 L.A. Muni primary is the

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Full Employment Act for Campaign Consultants. Campaign management is a growth industry, which is why just about all of the serious contenders have professional, paid staff...

...Latest to sign up consultants are attorney Tom Houston and businessman Nick Patsaouras. Houston has hired Jack Nicholl of Siegel & Nicholl as campaign director; Robert Kaplan will handle fundraising; and Susan Hunt will handle communications. Patsaouras has hired Bill Carrick to do TV and Allan Hoffenblum to do mail. And L.A. Deputy Mayor Linda Griego has rounded out her team by hiring John Plaxco for fundraising and Roy Baer for day-to-day management...

...Based on name ID, money raised and campaign teams, here's the way CALPEEK now rates this contest:

- TOP TIER - attorney Richard Riordan; L.A. Councilmen Michael Woo and Joel Wachs; and Assemblyman Richard Katz...

- POSSIBLE BREAKTHROUGH - L.A. Deputy Mayor Linda Griego...

- 2ND TIER - L.A. Councilman Nate Holden and businessman Nick Patsaouras...

- LONG SHOTS - attorney Tom Houston; former school board member Julian Nava; L.A. Councilman Ernani Bernardi; and attorney Stan Sanders...

...In the top tier, CALPEEK sources think Woo will have the most trouble because he's vying for the Bradley Coalition with three others - Griego, Sanders and to a lesser extent, Houston. And Riordan, with all his money, could also wind up in trouble because he has backed away from an earlier position (two years ago) favoring a break-up of the huge and troubled L.A. Unified School District. The school district has become a very hot issue in this mayor's race, especially in the S.F. Valley and South Central L.A...

...As for illegal immigration, this is the hot button issue that Houston is riding for all it is worth. It won't make him mayor, but like Bernardi, he'll surely take votes away from the frontrunners. And if she's not careful in her response to this question on immigration, Griego could land in hot water. She will be keeping a low profile for about 10 days or so, while she and her campaign map strategy and positions on key issues. Griego is super on questions about jobs and the economy, but seemed a little weak on other topics. Still, she's the only viable Hispanic in the race (sorry Julian) and the ONLY woman among the serious contenders. More next week...

SPECIAL ELECTION UPDATE: 17th C.D. FIELD GROWS; HURTT CLEARS GOP FIELD IN 32nd S.D.
Editor's note: Here is a brief update on two special elections due this Spring...

- 17th C.D. - No date yet for this special to replace U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta(D). But the revised list of candidates is growing each day. The list includes Assemblyman Sam Farr(D-Carmel), Monterey Co. Sup. Barbara Shipnuck(D); Seaside Mayor Lance McClair(D); Salinas atty. Bill Monning(D); Salinas businessman Martin Vonnegut(D), who ran against Sen. Henry Mello in 1992; atty. Ed Frey; and Salinas teacher Kyle Samuels (D). Also looking things over is Santa Cruz Co. DA Art Danner, a moderate Demo. On the GOP side there is Bill McCampbell of Pebble Beach, who ran against Panetta last year; Patricia Smith Ramsey; and county probation officer Carl Cigslikowski...

...What's of interest is that there already seems to be a battle brewing to replace Farr, who by all accounts is the frontrunner in the congressional special election. In the battle for Farr's assembly seat, the list includes Monterey Co. Sup. Gary Patton (D); former Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird(D), the city's first openly gay mayor; and former Santa Cruz Sentinel editor Bruce McPherson(R)...

- 32nd S.D. - Orange County businessman and hardline GOP contributor Rob Hurtt has cleared the field of all serious Republican challengers in this special to succeed new U.S. Rep. Ed Royce(R). For all intents and purposes, this race is OVER now that Santa Ana Mayor Dan Young has bowed out and has endorsed Hurtt. But Hurtt is NOT taking any chances. An absentee ballot application was mailed to GOP voters 10 days ago and McNally-Temple & Assoc. of Sacto say a field operation is underway too...

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L.A. MUNI ELECTION: CITY COUNCIL BATTLES. Editor's note: This week CALPEEK begins a series of brief reports and updates on the L.A. City Council races. The primary is April 20th and involves only ODD-NUMBERED districts. Our first report is about INCUMBENTS UNDER SIEGE...

...Most CALPEEK insiders agree that there are only 3 incumbents who face really serious opposition. They are 3rd District Councilwoman Joy Picus; 9th District Councilwoman Rita Walters; and 15th District Councilwoman Joan Flores. And in case it's not too obvious, all the incumbents in this category are WOMEN...

• 3rd District - Picus avoided a runoff 4 years ago by about 500 votes - against a no-name challenger. She did very poorly in Reseda and the perception from many city hall sources is that Picus is in deep political trouble. She has hired consultants Bill Carrick for media and Jill Barad for fundraising. As of deadline time, Picus had 4 rivals, the most serious being Laura Chick of Tarzana, who worked FOR Picus at one time. Chick has hired Campaign Management, Inc., who are expected to go after Picus on a variety of issues, including constituent services...

• 9th District - Walters won a very narrow victory in a special election 18 months ago to replace the late Gil Lindsay. Her challenger then and once again will be Bob Gay, who has hired consultant Rick Taylor. But Gay will have some competition from businessman Donald Lumpkin, who has hired Siegel & Nicholl as campaign managers and Irene Tritschler as a fundraiser. Walters has hired consultant Felica Bragg. The general perception around city hall is that Walters is vulnerable...

• 15th District - After two unsuccessful runs for partisan office, Flores is seeking reelection to her Harbor area council job. Except for her first council race, she's trounced her rivals in subsequent council elections. But this time will be different as she faces 5 challengers, some of whom are considered SERIOUS. The best known is L.A. School Board member Warren Furutani. Then there is Janice Hahn, daughter of Kenneth and sister of James. She's hired Adler-Wilson Campaigns; Fairbank, Maullin to handle polling and Irene Tritschler for fundraising. Two other serious contenders are Rudolph Svorinich Jr. of San Pedro and Louis Dominguez, who has some left over name ID from an Assembly race back in 1980. Flores has hired Campaign Management, Inc. to run her reelection. The general feeling is that Flores will face a runoff, probably with Hahn (and not Furutani, because he must answer for all the problems with the school district). Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: WORKERS' COMP REFORM PROPOSAL TO BE SUBMITTED AS MEASURE & BILL. Editor's note: Here is a report on plans to launch an initiative dealing with the hot issue of WORKERS' COMP REFORM...

...Although this proposed initiative by GOP Assemblyman Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar is only in the draft stage, some details have been disclosed to CALPEEK. Horcher plans to unveil the entire initiative and BILL on Jan. 29th, at a meeting of the Orange Co. Coalition for Workers Compensation Reform. For info about this meeting, contact Harvey Englander at (714)755-3555...

...Horcher plans to submit the initiative in bill form to his colleagues. He says he will drop the initiative IF they agree to pass it...

...The main parts of the initiative deal with rate reduction, stress issues and fraud. It will also protect public safety personnel. CALPEEK has learned that Horcher's plan eliminates the minimum rate provisions now in the law and the measure would give local DAs more power in workers comp fraud cases...

...To qualify and run this initiative, Horcher has put together a well-balanced team: Campaign Management, Inc.(Englander and Ex. VP Dan Woolridge) will direct the campaign; Stan Harper & Assoc. of Bakersfield will serve as the campaign's exec. director; Reed & Davidson will be legal counsel; the Robert Kaplan Co. will coordinate the fundraising. There are a number of specialists who also will be involved. Stay tuned...

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CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES. Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

• CALPEEK sources are fairly confident that within the next 3-4 weeks the State Assembly will get its first INDEPENDENT member when Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar quits the GOP to join State Senators Quentin Kopp of S.F. and Lucy Killea of San Diego as a registered independent. FYI: Some GOP types, mainly the CA Republican Assembly volunteer group, wouldn't be all that upset if Horcher jumped ship. In fact, at the CRA's quarterly board meeting in L.A. on Jan. 17, the BOD passed a resolution urging the GOP Assembly Caucus to exclude Horcher from all caucus meetings...

• LEGISLATIVE ANALYST - Question: how can the State Legislature operate without an independent Legislative Analyst's office to let the lawmakers (and the public) know what impact (fiscal and otherwise) a particular bill will have? ANSWER: the legislature can operate, but its credibility won't be worth a damn. In late June, funding for the Office of Legislative Analyst will end -- and since voters rejected Prop. 158 (to fund this office), it will cease to function UNLESS it gets funding from State lawmakers. Will that happen? Don't bet your first born...

• REPLACING ESHOO - In the battle to replace new U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo on the San Mateo Co. Board of Supes, the leading contender is Ted Lempert, former Demo Assemblyman who was Eshoo's chief rival in the 1992 primary. Other serious rivals are Atherton Councilman Christopher Cobey, newspaper publisher Jerry Fuchs, and business exec. Denise DeVille. The board of supes have set the election primary for June 8...

• WHERE'S BRUCE? - As in former U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Herschensohn. He's joined the Claremont Institute as a senior fellow. He'll organize conferences, will do research and will write a book...

• SAN DIEGO SPECIAL - There are about 3 weeks to go in the special election to replace new U.S. Rep. Bob Filner on the San Diego City Council. There are 9 official candidates and 1 write-in. Of this group, 4 are considered serious: Filner's COS, Francisco Estrada; attorney Mike Aguirre, who has run for the council numerous times in past years; Andrea Skorepa, who ran against Filner for the council last time; and Juan Vargas. Estrada has hired Roger Lee & Carol Beddo, Inc., while Aguirre has hired consultant Tom Shepard of Stoorza, Ziegaus & Metzger's new political group. Aguirre has the ability to throw in tons of his own money, making him and Estrada the two frontrunners in this Feb. 16 winner-take-all special...

• ALATORRE'S GOLDEN TOUCH - It wasn't the usual fundraiser for L.A. Councilman Richard Alatorre this past Jan. 16. Yes, he collected $700,000 at a black-tie event honoring his 20-years of public service, but all the money went for the establishment of the El Sereno Youth Development Center in his district. Paying tribute to Alatorre were L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, Demo Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, numerous council colleagues, past and current members of the legislature and at least 4 current candidates for mayor. State Sen. Art Torres(D-L.A.) was the MC --- and he made a little news himself. He told the 1,000 at this dinner that he planned to run for Insurance Commissioner in 1994...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES. Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

• D.C. assignments: As expected, Dee Dee Myers becomes the 1st woman to become Press Secretary; and insiders say L.A. attorney John Emerson will become a special asst. to the president, working for Bruce Lindsey (a very close FOB)...

• Heard on the street: ace L.A. City Hall lobbyist Fran Savitch and partner Hope Boonshaft-Lewis are splitting up...

• Campaign consultant Ed Slevin moves from the House GOP Conference to the office of new CA U.S. Rep. Kenneth Calvert(R-Riverside)...

• Former GOP Assemblyman Tom McClintock (R-Camarillo) forms the Center for the CA Taxpayer, a watchdog group affiliated with Lew Uhler's taxpayers' group. CCT will be HQed in Sacto...

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